

Session 4: The Bible

Scripture Text: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Introduction

- The Bible was written over a period of approximately 1,400 years.
- It was penned by approximately 40 different authors.
- It was penned by men from different walks of life.
- It was written in 3 languages. Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek
- It is our rule of faith and practice.

I. Is the Bible fact or fiction?

A. Are the writers telling the truth?

- They are writing as eye witnesses.
- *1 John 1:1*

B. Confirmed by God Himself

- God has confirmed the prophetic word. *2 Pet 1:19*
- Prophetic – a declaration of the will or knowledge of God.
- Prophecy is not confined to telling the future as most believe.
- Prophecy (The Bible) is God's confirmed message revealed to man.

II. How did we get the Bible?

A. The source of scripture

- The source of the Bible is God. *2 Timothy 3:16*
- Inspiration – God breathed.
- Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
2 Peter 1:21
- Moved – carried.

B. The preservation of scripture

- We do not have the original writings of scripture.
- We have copies of the original writings.
- We have 66,000 manuscripts containing 2.6 million pages dating as far back as 50 A.D to 75 A.D.
- These manuscripts were copied by hand by the scribes.

III. Who decided what was included in the Bible?

A. The Canon

- The word canon comes from the root word *reed*.
- A reed was used as a measuring rod, and came to mean “the standard.”
- This standard did not determine what books would be called the Word of God, but rather to discover what books were inspired by God.

B. The Standard

- Was the book written by a prophet of God? *2 Peter 1:21*
- Was the writer confirmed by acts of God? *Heb 2:4*
- Did the message tell the truth about God? *Heb 13:8*
- Is it accompanied by the power of God? *Heb 4:12*
- Was it accepted by the people of God. *John 10:27*
- Do the manuscripts agree with apostolic doctrine? *Eph 2:20*